Research, Development Credit, Finance and other support. These specific projects include, Extension offices in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Assam, a Regional office at Vizag, two coffee demonstration farms established at Koraput (Orissa) and Haflong (Assam), a Regional Coffee Research Station in Andhra Pradesh to cater to the research needs of the Zone, five coffee demonstration farms in the North Eastern region (Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur) and a Regional Research Station at Diphu in Assam to cater to the research needs of the North Eastern Zone and training of personnel in the North Eastern Region.

The area under coffee in Non-traditional areas is around 22,016 ha. During VIII Plan, the target is to expand coffee plantation in 5,000 ha in non-traditional areas.

The amount spent on the development of coffee plantation in the Non-traditional areas during the last three years are as under :

1993-94	Rs. 108.70 lakh
1994-95	Rs. 109.56 lakh
1995-96	Rs. 137.84 lakh

Tea :

New Tea Unit Financing Scheme is being operated to encourage tea plantations in the non-traditional areas. Under this scheme, loan at the rate of Rs. 63,200 per ha and subsidy at the rate of Rs. 37,900 per ha is provided for setting up of new tea plantations in the non-traditional areas. The total area planted under tea in non-traditional region is 2664.52 ha. In addition to this, 11 fresh proposals have been received from various State Governments in the non traditional areas for planting tea in 3557.59 ha.

The amount spent on the development of tea plantations in the non-traditional areas during the last three years are as under :

1993-94	Rs. 354.8 lakh
1994-95	Rs. 227.01 lakh
1995-96	Rs. 325.5 lakh

Participation of Financial Institutions in Public Sector

1269. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the norms being followed by the Government to ensure the participation of various Government financial institutions in the public issues;

(b) whether pressure is being exerted on Government financial institutions particularly Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India to participate in some public issues of the Companies;

(c) if so, the details of these companies;

(d) whether the Government have received complaints during the last three years regarding pressurising of Government Financial Institutions to participate in various public issues;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Government have not prescribed any norms for participation of financial institutions (FIs) in public issues. The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that decision to participate in public issues of companies is based on the financial, economic, commercial viability and technical feasibility of the projects being implemented by them.

(b) No, Sir. The Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Ltd. (ICICI) which is a public financial institution has reported that the underwriting and direct subscription assistance are sanctioned by ICICI based on its perception of the viability of the project and the risks involved, which are again based on its appraisal of the project.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f). Do not arise.

Problems of Exporters

1270. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the exporters are facing a number of problems under the existing pass book scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to redress the problem of exporters and to achieve the target of exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The main problems relate to valuation for credit under the passbook scheme, delay in grant of credit, limited operation of passbook scheme from specified ports, and imposition of special duty of customs on imports made under passbook scheme, all of which are under the active consideration of Deptt. of Revenue.

(c) Ministry of Commerce is in constant touch with the apex Chambers of Commerce to seek their views on the problems faced by the passbook holder. Wherever necessary, the matter has been taken up with the Customs and Central Excise authorities and necessary amendments/modifications have been made by notification/public notices/circulars.